

REMARKS

Claims 4-10, as amended, and new claims 11 and 12 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Claim 4 has been amended better to distinguish applicant's invention over the art; the claim is revised to recite "a rigidly connected rectangular structure." See applicant's specification at page 10, line 18 for support thereof. Claim 4 has been amended also to specify that a first end of each polymer post insulator is "rigidly" connected to the supporting structure, and a second end of each polymer post insulators is "rigidly" connected to the plate member. Corresponding changes have been made in method claim 5. See now-canceled claims 2 and 3, as originally filed, the latter reciting "connected rigidly."

Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to overcome respectively a rejection under 35 USC 112 and an informality objection.

New claims 11 and 12 have been added, which are similar to revised claims 4 and 5, and with the added limitation "wherein said supporting structure is selected from the group consisting of a steel pole, a wood pole or a steel tower." See applicant's

specification at page 7, lines 1-2, where these embodiments are discussed.

1. The drawings were objected to for allegedly not illustrating all of the claim elements, specifically first and second rigid bodies recited in claim 6. Applicant submits such elements are depicted in the drawings.

The specification at page 8, lines 8-12, describes a holding member 6 at one end of each of post insulators 1, as shown in Fig. 2. This description relates to one end of the post insulator where holding member 6 is fixed to supporting structure 13 and the other end where holding member 6 is fixed to plate member 12. These holding members correspond to the "first rigid body" and "second rigid body" in claim 6 in that portion reading:

the first end of the post insulator is connected to the supporting structure by a first rigid body (holding member 6 at an end of the polymer post insulator and attached to supporting structure 13 as shown in Fig. 2) comprising a part of the polymer post insulator, and a second rigid body (holding member 6 at an end of the polymer post insulator and attached to plate member 12 shown in Fig. 2) comprising a part of the polymer post insulator. (parentheticals added)

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Thus, each holding member 6, i.e., each first and second rigid body, is "a part of the polymer post insulator." Accordingly, Fig. 2, as originally filed, shows all elements of claim 6. The drawings do not need to be revised further. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. Claim 7 was objected to for a stated reason. The appropriate change has been made.

3. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 5 has been amended as suggested. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

4. Claims 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Paw et al. U.S. Patent 5,821,486. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The polymer insulator apparatus as claimed includes a rigidly connected rectangular structure, including plural polymer post insulators, a supporting structure and a plate

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member, wherein a first end of each polymer post insulator is rigidly connected to the supporting structure, and a second end of each said polymer post insulators is rigidly connected to the plate member. Similar language appears in the related method for mounting claims. This arrangement and a method for using this arrangement are nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference.

Paw et al. '486 is asserted to disclose "a plate member (lower part of 24)" wherein a second end of each polymer post insulator 30, 18 is connected to that "plate member." Not so; Paw et al. '486 at column 2, line 48, describes element 24 as "switch blade 24." Paw et al. '486, Fig. 2, shows switch blade 24 as a conductor that pivots away from, and toward stationary main contact tongue 28, i.e., switch blade 24 makes and breaks contact with tongue 28. But, applicants' claim 4 require that "a second end of each said polymer post insulators is rigidly connected to said plate member," an arrangement that excludes switch blade 24 because neither end of the blade is rigidly connected, i.e., one end is pivotably attached and the other end is unattached and able to swing away.

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Moreover, Paw et al. '486 does not disclose or suggest a supporting structure "selected from the group consisting of a steel pole, a wood pole or a steel tower" as recited in new claims 11 and 12.

For the foregoing reasons, Paw et al. '486 does not disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. Claims 6-8 and 10, which depend from claim 5, are allowable for the same reasons that claim 5 is allowable, and claim 9, which depends from claim 4, is allowable for the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

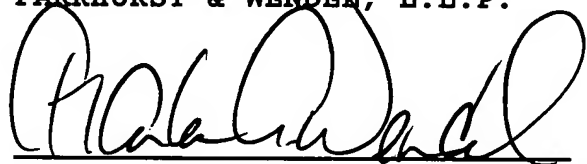
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All claims 4-12 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 4-12 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.



Charles A. Wendel

Registration No. 24,453

Robert N. Wieland

Registration No. 40,225

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Date

CAW:RNW/jmz

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PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805
Telephone: (703) 739-0220